



Indiana Department of Education

SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Principals, and School Administration

FROM: Rich Hogue, Assistant Superintendent for Learning Support

DATE: May 19, 2010

SUBJECT: HEA 1419 and Model Template

In 2009, the Indiana Legislature passed HEA 1419 which requires the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) to develop a model evidence-based plan for improving discipline and behavior within schools. As set forth by HEA 1419, the model plan must include guidelines for:

1. Improving safe school planning and classroom management using positive behavior supports, parental involvement, and other effective disciplinary tools.
2. Providing improved mental health services in or through schools.
3. Reviewing zero tolerance policies to ensure:
 - (A) compliance with applicable laws; and
 - (B) students are not inappropriately referred to juvenile justice agencies.
4. Providing assistance to parents concerning access to family strengthening programs.
5. Improving communication, coordination and collaboration among schools, including special education programs, parents, and juvenile justice agencies.
6. Improving methods and procedures for school suspensions and referrals to alternative programs.
7. Providing for the collection, review and reporting on an annual basis of school behavior and disciplinary problems, arrests and referrals to the juvenile justice system. This data must be disaggregated on the basis of race and ethnicity under guidelines for determining the existence of disproportionality in discipline or inappropriately high rates of suspension or expulsion.

Indiana's Model Evidence-Based Plan for Improving Behavior and Discipline within Schools, the Sample School Corporation Plan Template, and more can be found online at www.doe.in.gov/discipline/. If you have questions about the plan or the template, please email us at ibdplan@doe.in.gov or call Gary Green at 317-234-6845.